



AGENDA
Public Safety Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 19, 2026 – 7:00 AM
Herbert J. Tennes Government Center - Room 1019
432 E. Washington Street, West Bend, WI 53095

This meeting will stream live on [YouTube.com/washcowi](https://www.youtube.com/washcowi)

The following business will be brought before the Committee for initiation, discussion, deliberation, and possible formal action subject to the rules of the Board, which may be inspected in the office of the County Clerk.

- 1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Affidavit of Posting, A Moment of Silent Prayer, and Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Minutes**
 - a. Minutes of July 15, 2026
- 3. Discussion or Possible Action**
 - a. Discussion: Information Technology (IT) 1.0 FTE for shared services position with for Village of Germantown Police Department
 - b. Washington County District Attorney's Office Update Report
 - c. Washington County Countywide EMS System
- 4. Next Meeting Date**
 - a. September 16, 2026 at 7:00 am
- 5. Adjournment**

It is possible that individual members of other governing bodies of the County government may attend the above meeting. It is possible that such attendance may constitute a meeting of any such other governing body pursuant to State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Board, 173 Wis. 2d 553, 494 N.W. 2d 408 (1993). This notice is given solely to comply with the notice requirements of the open meeting law. No action will be taken by any other governmental body except by the governing body noticed in the caption above.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

This agenda was posted in the office of the County Clerk on the 17th day of August 2026. Notice was sent to the Washington County Daily News, Express News, WIBD/WMBZ Radio, WTKM Radio, My Community NOW, Hartford Times Press, Kewaskum Statesman, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel. Individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the County Clerk at (262) 335-4301 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

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Ashley A. Reichert, County Clerk



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Joel Woppert

Director of Information Technology

484 Rolfs Ave
West Bend, WI 53090
(262) 335-4516

To: Public Safety Committee

From: Dr. Joel Woppert, Director of IT

Date: August 19, 2026

Re: Information Technology (IT) 1.0 FTE for shared services position with for Village of Germantown Police Department

POLICY QUESTION:

Should Washington County expand Information Technology (IT) Shared Services to the Village of Germantown Police Department?

STRATEGIC PRIORITY/RESULT ACHIEVED:

Well-Governed and Administered County

Economic Growth and Vitality

Safe and Secure Community

DISCUSSION:

As part of the County Board's commitment to expanding IT Shared Services across Washington County, Washington County is looking to enter into an agreement with the Village of Germantown Police Department to establish a shared 1.0 FTE IT position dedicated to supporting public safety technology needs. This partnership reflects the Board's strategic priority to strengthen countywide collaboration, enhance cybersecurity, improve service quality, and create long-term operational efficiencies for local municipalities. Under the proposed 50/50 cost-share model, both Washington County and the Village of Germantown will jointly fund the position, enabling the Police Department to access specialized IT expertise, standardized technology practices, and reliable backup support through the Washington County Sheriff's Office. Entering into this agreement not only delivers high-value services at a reduced cost for both agencies, but also continues the County Board's broader initiative to extend modern, scalable shared-services solutions to additional towns and villages throughout the county.

The Village of Germantown and the Washington County Sheriff's Department rely on the same dispatching platform and several shared law enforcement technologies, creating opportunities for strengthened internal support within our own agency. The new FTE will be able to assist the Sheriff's Office during high work volume, provide additional support in times of emergent IT matters, assist in 24/7 coverage, and support when the current T Engineer is out of the office.

TIMELINE:

August 20 – Presentation of IT Shared Services to Public Works Committee for approval to pass to full board
September 9 – Presentation of IT Shared Services for Village of Germantown to County Board for approval



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COSTS:

ESTIMATED COSTS	Germantown PD Costs	County Costs
Personnel Costs (Additional 1.0 FTE)	\$45,000 - \$55,000	\$45,000 - \$55,000
Staff Laptop and Equipment	\$1,250	\$1,250
Application and License Costs	\$4,000	\$4,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS	\$50,250 - \$60,250	\$50,250 - \$60,250

Funding Source:

2026 and 2027 – IT Fund Balance with the understanding that the County would be applying for the State Innovation Fund to support the position in the short term.

2028/2029 - Part of the budgeting process

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposed Resolution

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A - Discussion

**WASHINGTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BARRY J. BRAATZ**

Deputy District Attorney
Kristina J. Gordon
Assistant District Attorneys
Nick J. Daniels
Nikole M. Kane
Melissa J. Zilavy
Tessa L. Button
Joseph A. Radish
Jane E. Kohlwey



Justice Center
484 Rolfs Ave., Room 2115
PO Box 1986
West Bend, WI 53095-7986
(262) 335-4311
Fax (262) 335-4739

To: Washington County Public Safety Committee Members
From: Barry J. Braatz, District Attorney
Date: 08/12/2026
RE: Washington County District Attorney's Office Update Report

Dear Public Safety Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present an update on the year-to-date status of the Washington County District Attorney's Office. We remain committed to our mission of protecting Washington County communities through the fair and vigorous prosecution of criminal, juvenile, and traffic offenses in Washington County.

I am grateful for the continued support from the County Board, County Executive, and the Public Safety Committee with the previously approved funding of a 0.6 prosecutor position, as well as the recent approval of a 1.0 temporary special prosecutor position. This support by Washington County leaders ensures the District Attorney's Office retains a qualified and skilled prosecutor and also allowed the hiring of an experienced prosecutor to assist in combating narcotics and drug trafficking in Washington County.

Although the additional positions funded by Washington County have greatly assisted the District Attorney's Office in its mission of serving and protecting our community, we remain in a position where additional resources are necessary. The 2026 Wisconsin Department of Administration District Attorney Workload Analysis indicates the Washington County District Attorney's Office needs 9.02 prosecutors. This analysis is based on 2023-2025 case numbers and types. As I note in my report, I am projecting that again in 2026, the Washington County District Attorney's Office will file significantly more cases than in 2023 and 2024, demonstrating a continued need for prosecutors.

Despite these deficiencies, my office remains committed to protecting our community and continuing the vigorous and just prosecution of those who commit crimes in Washington County.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Public Safety Committee, the County Board, the County Executive, and all community stakeholders in ensuring public safety in Washington County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Braatz", is written over a horizontal line.

Barry J. Braatz
District Attorney
Washington County

Washington County District Attorney's Office Current Staffing

The office is currently made up of 6.4 state-funded prosecutors and 1.6 county-funded prosecutors. This includes one District Attorney, one Deputy District Attorney, and six Assistant District Attorneys.

Washington County has approved funding of 0.6 of a prosecutor position through December 31, 2027, to ensure the retention of a full-time prosecutor within the District Attorney's Office. Washington County has also recently approved funding of a temporary 1.0 special prosecutor position through December 31, 2027, to assist in combating narcotics and drug trafficking in Washington County. The District Attorney's Office immediately hired for this position, with the special prosecutor beginning July 20, 2026.

The Washington County District Attorney's Office has one Office Manager, five legal clerks, one accounting technician, one Victim/Witness Coordinator and one Victim/Witness Specialist. The District Attorney's Office recently hired a new Victim/Witness Coordinator with nearly ten (10) years of service in a District Attorney's Victim/Witness Office, and approximately twenty (20) years of total experience in Victim Services and Advocacy.

2022-2026 Case Filing Statistics

The Washington County District Attorney's Office is continuing to file significantly more criminal cases than years prior to 2025.

2022

Felony: 643
Misdemeanor: 1133
Total: 1776

2023

Felony: 582
Misdemeanor: 1273
Total: 1855

2024

Felony: 588
Misdemeanor: 1364
Total: 1952

2025

Felony: 732
Misdemeanor: 1689
Total: 2421

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Felony: 466
Misdemeanor: 926
Total: 1392
Projection: 2278

2026 Wisconsin Department of Administration District Attorney Workload Analysis

The 2026 Statewide Workload Analysis provided by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) is an analysis conducted based on 2023-2025 case numbers and types. The Washington County District Attorney's Office has 6.4 authorized state positions. At 6.4 attorneys, the Washington County District Attorney's Office staffing level is at 70.94%. DOA indicates in its analysis that the Washington County District Attorney's Office needs 9.02 prosecutors.

Notably, in the DOA Workload Analysis, Washington County is the second lowest staffed office in the State, behind only Buffalo County.¹ Further, Washington County has the fewest prosecutors per 10,000 residents in the State, at 0.46 prosecutor(s) per 10,000 residents.

Based on the 2026 DOA workload analysis, relying on 2023-2025 case numbers, the Washington County District Attorney's Office effectively needs eight (9) full time prosecutors. However, it is District Attorney Braatz's position that with the continued and projected increase in filed cases in 2025 and 2026, and the anticipated rise in cases beyond 2026, the Washington County District Attorney's Office needs, at minimum, twelve (12) full time prosecutors to function properly and serve the office's mission of public safety for the citizens of Washington County.

Joint Legislative Council Study Committee on District Attorney Funding Formula

On July 14, 2026, District Attorney Braatz was appointed to serve as a Public Member of the Legislative Council Study Committee on District Attorney Funding Formula. The study committee is directed to review the weighted caseload formula currently used to determine how the state funds district attorneys' offices. The committee will review how caseloads are measured to determine whether district attorneys' offices are adequately staffed and how positions are allocated based on the weighted caseload formula.

Conclusion

The District Attorney's Office continues to see more violent crime, more complex investigations, and more victims who need our help. A fully staffed prosecutorial office is vital to an effective criminal justice system. When offenders and the community perceive that the justice system lacks the capacity to prosecute cases swiftly and effectively, public confidence erodes, and community safety is undermined.

The District Attorney's Office is fully committed to working with law enforcement to ensure safe streets and neighborhoods for Washington County families. This continued increase in prosecution is a direct result of policy changes implemented by District Attorney Braatz within the office upon his arrival in January of 2025. Despite an understaffed office and oversized caseloads, the Washington County District Attorney's Office remains steadfast in its commitment to holding criminals accountable and keeping Washington County safe.

¹ Buffalo County has a population of approximately 13,290 people, and the District Attorney's Office currently has 1.20 authorized state positions. According to the DOA Workload Analysis, with the addition of 0.57 prosecutor position, the District Attorney's Office would be fully staffed.

- End of Report -